

## House Republican Press Release

June 8, 2005  
Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Rep. Greene: Legislature Passes Bill to Allow Residents to Import Wine**



#### *Addresses Issues Raised By Recent Supreme Court Decision*

Hartford, CT-On Wednesday June 8, the House of Representatives approved legislation that will allow Connecticut residents to purchase wine from out-of-state wineries. The legislation addresses issues raised by a recent U.S Supreme Court decision. State Rep. Len Greene, R-105th, as Ranking Member (House Republican Leader) of the Legislature's General Law Committee, helped craft Senate Bill 122, which now goes to Governor M. Jodi Rell for final approval.

On Monday, May 16, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states cannot prohibit consumers from buying wine directly from out-of-state wineries. The court ruled that bans against direct sales unconstitutionally discriminate against interstate commerce. The decision was hailed as a victory for consumers who have been prevented from purchasing wine shipped from out of state.

"This legislation does address issues raised by the Supreme Court case, such as preventing underage drinkers from illegally obtaining alcohol from out of state," said Rep. Greene. "I'm pleased that Connecticut residents now have additional options for purchasing wine and that we were able to see the bill approved in the final hour of the Legislative Session."

*Rep. Greene represents Beacon Falls, Seymour and Ansonia in the House of Representatives.*